Shortage of urea due to closure of units

1217. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the acute shortage of urea in the country;

(b) why Government have failed to anticipate the crisis by closing down the seven urea producing fertilizer units, totalling a production capacity of 20 lakh tonnes; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to revive these fertilizer units with Naphtha/LNG/Natural Gas on a fast tract basis to make the urea available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) While the demand, availability and sale of fertilizers in the country during 2006-07 (upto January'07) were as follows, sufficient availability of fertilizers was ensured by the Department of Fertilizers in each of the months in Kharif and Rabi at the state level in all the State:

01.04.2006 to 31.01.2007 *(in lakh MT)*

Product	Demand (Assessed before the season)	Availability	Sales
Urea	223.12	222:94	208.71
DAP	73.46	77.79	62.09
MOP	28.44	22.76	20.06

(b) and (c) Now, the Department of Fertilizers is exploring possibilities for revival of units of M/s. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited which were closed in pursuance of the Cabinet decision in year 2002.

Effect of change in pesticide policy

1218. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any change in pesticide policy recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian companies are facing difficulties to manufacture the pesticides products in the country;

(d) whether under this new policy, multinationals and other companies are importing ready made formulations at a very high cost and exploiting the Indian farmers;

(e) whether it will create a danger for environment, public health and Indian soil due to bad residual effect on the soil due to import of ready to use formulation without registering technical pesticides in India; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Registration Committee under the Insecticides Act, 1968 has approved the guidelines for import of formulated products without registration of the "Technical" in the year 2000. As per these guidelines, the total data on the technical product as well as on the formulations is required for registration. Therefore, these guidelines do not create any danger for environment, public health and Indian soil due to any residual effect. It is true that for such registrations, if the domestic company wants to produce "Technical" locally, they cannot seek registration u/s. 9(4) of the Insecticide Act 1968, as they have to apply for registration u/s.9(3) of the same Act by submitting total data.

(f) Does not arise.

Production loss due to ULFA attacks

†1219. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production in Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Ltd. (BVFL) has almost come to a standstill due to killings by ULFA in Assam and fleeing of non-Assamese from the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.